

From the Board Room - December Edition

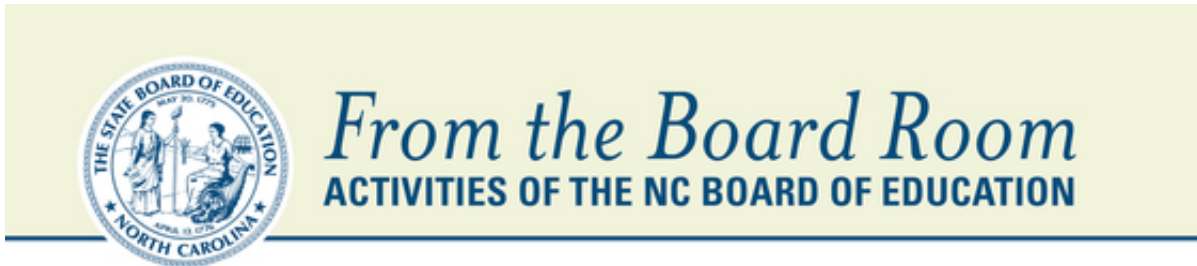
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DECEMBER 2015

The State Board of Education is comprised of the State Treasurer, the Lieutenant Governor and 11 citizens appointed by the Governor. This newsletter highlights the Board's activities on behalf of the 1.5 million public school students in our state and the more than 100,000 educators who provide services to children. You may view all State Board of Education member and advisor information [online](#). To access current and archived versions of From the Boardroom, visit the State Board of Education's [website](#).

State Board of Education Strategic Plan to Guide Its Work

State Board of Education members have set important goals for the next three years. The following goals are for 2017-18, with incremental improvements expected in the preceding two years:

- a four year high school cohort graduation rate of more than 90 percent;
- approximately 80 percent of high school juniors scoring at or above the minimum UNC ACT score requirement of 17;
- Career and Technical Education students earning 151,900 or more industry credentials;
- reducing the percentage of graduates who need remediation in the UNC system during their freshman year to 2 percent; and
- increasing access to effective and highly effective teachers for students in low-achieving and high-poverty schools.

The Board's strategic plan focuses on:

- Every student graduating from high school prepared for work, further education and citizenship.
- Every student having a personalized education.
- Every student, every day having excellent educators.

- Every school district having up-to-date financial, business and technology systems to serve students, parents and educators.
- Every student healthy, safe and responsible.

The Board's full plan and its objectives and measures are available [online](#).

NCVPS Annual Report Shows Participation Growth Trend



North Carolina's Virtual Public School (NCVPS) has been offering online courses for students across the state since 2007. In 2014-15, 35,966 students enrolled in at least one online course through NCVPS, and there were a total of 55,817 course enrollments. This represents an increase from 17,326 student enrollments in 2007-08.

NCVPS enables students to take courses that may not ordinarily be offered in their local brick-and-mortar school or during times that are more convenient for their schedules. These virtual courses are offered through local school districts at no charge to public school and public charter school students or their families.

Courses offered through the NCVPS range from credit recovery to Advanced Placement (AP) courses. One special component of the NCVPS is its Occupational Course of Study blended courses for students with disabilities. *Education Week* called the NCVPS Occupational Course of Study (OCS) Blended Learning approach of partnering licensed special education teachers and subject matter experts "the gold standard of courses for special education students."

NCVPS offers more than 150 courses, including 15 AP courses, 16 world languages, 10 OCS courses and 12 arts courses.

Funding Available for Stop-arm Cameras

Motorists in North Carolina routinely and illegally pass stopped school buses, according to the annual stop-arm violations count, which shows that more than 3,000 vehicles daily will illegally pass a school bus with its red lights flashing and stop sign extended, according to figures from the state's annual one day stop-arm count.

Since 1998, 13 North Carolina students have been killed in such incidents. State law allows video evidence to be used in prosecuting these offenses. Placing stop-arm cameras on buses can help address this safety issue by raising awareness and providing local law enforcement with evidence to prosecute motorists who illegally pass a stopped school bus.



This month, the State Board of Education approved a funding formula to distribute \$690,000 in state funds to local school districts for installing stop-arm cameras. Only school districts that are reporting

violations through the North Carolina State University data-gathering instrument will be eligible, unless the district submits a statement indicating why submitting data has not been possible. Priority will be given to districts with a lower percentage of the school bus fleet currently equipped with stop-arm camera systems.

Students Retained Twice to Receive Out-of-School Tutoring

School districts will now have funding to provide out-of-school tutoring for elementary school students who have been retained twice and are not on track with their peers for grade level reading proficiency under the Read to Achieve legislative requirement.

Funds will now be provided to support tutoring for these students in an effort to bring them to grade-level proficiency. The funding allotment is based on three hours of tutoring per week per student at \$40 an hour or \$120 per student, per week. PowerSchool records indicate that there are 391 students who have been retained twice under the requirements set out in legislation. These students began third grade in the 2013-14 school year and are currently in a transition or fourth grade accelerated class. Funding will be distributed to the LEAs/charters according to the student designation in PowerSchool.

The Read to Achieve legislative requirements began statewide in North Carolina in the 2013-14 school year. The current school year, 2015-16, is the first year in which students could meet the legislative requirement to become eligible for supplemental tutoring.

Special Recognitions

Mathematics and Science Awards

Each year, the top mathematics and science teachers in each state are recognized through the Presidential Awards for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching. State winners receive \$10,000 and a trip to Washington D.C. to attend the National Awards Recognition program.



This month, the 2013 Presidential Awardee in Mathematics, Julie Riggins of East Forsyth High School (Winston-Salem/Forsyth County Schools) was honored. Also, North Carolina's 2015 finalists for the Presidential Awards in Mathematics were recognized: Lauren Baucom, Forest Hills High School (Union County Schools), Maureen Fitzsimmons, Mooresville Middle School (Mooresville Graded Schools) and Sara Vaughn, Northwest Middle School (Winston-Salem/Forsyth Schools).

The 2015 North Carolina Presidential Awards finalists in Science are Jonathan Bennett, North Carolina School of Science and Mathematics (Durham), Ronda Champion, Crest High School (Cleveland County Schools), Amanda Class, Smoky Mountain High School (Jackson County Schools), and Karen Newman, Durham Academy (Durham).

America's Best School Bus Inspector

Local school districts employ school bus inspectors to ensure that the school buses transporting students each day are in good shape. The National Association for Pupil Transportation holds an annual competition to recognize excellence in school bus inspections, and this year, North Carolina's top school bus inspector also won the national competition as well. Dustin Wells, school bus inspector for Pitt County Schools, earned this national recognition and was honored at the December Board meeting.

SBE Highlights: A [checklist](#) of Board actions is posted every month at the conclusion of the meeting. The State Board of Education's next meeting will be held Jan. 6-7 in the 7th Floor Board Room, Education Building, 301 N. Wilmington Street, Raleigh, NC.



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